

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2 and 5-8 and 11-13 have been amended.

New claim 14 has been added and is somewhat similar to claim 2.

Claims 1-14 are pending and under consideration. Reconsideration is requested.

I. OBJECTION OF CLAIMS 1, 2 AND 5:

Claims 1, 2 and 5 have been amended to overcome the objection.

**II. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-13 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) AS BEING ANTICIPATED
BY KLUG ET AL. (U.S. PATENT NO. 5,790,785; HEREINAFTER “KLUG”):**

The present invention as recited in claim 1, for example, relates to a membership management system. The membership management system comprises at least one apparatus connected via a network and a database held by each of a plurality of service provision sites. The membership management system further comprises a database held by an integrated membership management center, wherein when a user makes an application for registration of membership information at one of the service provision sites by using said apparatus, the one of the service provision sites receiving the application registers at least a part of the membership information into the database held by the one of the service provision sites. When the membership information is not registered in a database held by an integrated membership management center, the integrated membership management center registers the membership information into the database held by the integrated membership management center, where the membership information comprises a user ID and a password and the integrated membership management center allows the user to use a same user ID and password throughout the service provision sites.

At page 9 of the Office Action, the Examiner asserts that Klug discloses in FIGs. 4-8 all of the features of the claimed invention. That is, the Examiner asserts that Klug provides a common user ID (and optional password) that may be used for accessing services of third party web sites.

The Applicant respectfully submits that although Klug discloses accessing services of third party web sites via the use of a common user ID and (optional password), Klug fails to disclose all of the features recited in the claimed invention. Specifically, Klug fails to disclose “a

database held by an integrated membership management center, wherein when a user makes an application for a registration of membership information at one of the service provision sites by using said apparatus, the one of the service provision sites receiving the application registers at least a part of the membership information into the database held by the one of the service provision sites, and when the membership information is not registered in a database held by the integrated membership management center, the integrated membership management center registers the membership information into the database held by the integrated membership management center, "as recited in claim 1.

Instead, Klug discloses at FIGs. 4-8, a World Wide Web registration web site wherein a user accessing the World Wide Web can utilize this website as a repository for registration information so that the user can request this registration information to be transmitted substantially automatically to another web site to which the user desires to register (see column 1, line 60 – column 2, line 2). Further, Klug discloses a first embodiment whereby, a user provides registration information directly to the registration web site and when the user request to register at a new web site cooperating with the registration process, then the user provides this new web site with a user ID and optional password for the registration web site together with an indication that any further information may be obtained from the registration web site and the new web site is then able to automatically retrieve the user's registration information from the registration web site and register the user at the new web site (see column 2, lines 20-36 and column 4, lines 24-58).

Further, Klug discloses a second embodiment whereby World Web client nodes have registration modules for the present invention loaded on them so that these nodes may interact with the registration website for providing user registration information to cooperating web sites to which the user request to register. That is, the user's registration information is stored both locally on the user's client node and at the registration web site, the web site being used as a backup. Thus, when the user desires to register at a new web site, the user's registration information is provided to the web site from the registration module residing on the user's client node (see column 2, lines 37-49 and column 13, lines 50-column 14, line 8).

However, Klug does not disclose a user being able to complete an application at a home page of a third party web site and have the application information transferred to the registration web site and stored. Instead, in Klug the user either registers directly at the registration web site or at the user's client node of the user's WWW browser via an optional registrar registration module (see FIG. 1).

Although the above comments are specifically directed to claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that the comments would be helpful in understanding differences of various other rejected claims over the cited reference. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

III. CONCLUSION:

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that each of the claims patentably distinguishes over the prior art, and therefore, defines allowable subject matter. A prompt and favorable reconsideration of the rejection along with an indication of allowability of all pending claims are therefore respectfully requested.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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